

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 MCT-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 DOE-15
SOE-02 /122 W
-----040812 242221Z /70

R 241605Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0069
INFO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1861

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PERP, NG, CD
SUBJECT: CHAD

1. ALTHOUGH IN THROES OF DEPARTING FOR CONFERENCE OF ISLAMIC STATES
IN DAKAR FONMIN DJERMAKOYE TOOK TIME APRIL 22 TO DISCUSS CHAD, INTER-
ALIA.

2. DESPITE CURRENT FIGHTING, HE HAS NOT COMPLETELY LOST HOPE
ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVES THAT FIGHTING COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED IF CEASE
FIRE OBSERVERS HAD BEEN IN PLACE. HE WAS AMBIGUOUS ABOUT THE ROLE
OF LIBYA, REFERRING TO LIBYA'S "INTENTIONS" WHICH HE IMPLIED WERE
EXPANSIONIST AND ON OTHER HAND TO LIBYA HAVING TO LIVE UP TO ITS
EXPLICIT COMMITMENT TO CHAD "RECONCILIATION."

3. IN EARLIER CONVERSATIONS HE HAD REMAKED THAT FROLINAT WOULD FIGHT
ONLY IF PERMITTED OR SUPPORTED BY LIBYA, I REPEATED THIS TO HIM. HE
AGREED SOMEWHAT DEJECTEDLY BUT QUICKLY OFFERED THAT NEITHER
FROLINAT NOR LIBYA COULD MAINTAIN CONTROL OF TWO THIRDS OF
CHAD. HE FEELS THAT MILITARILY THE FROLINAT ARE GOOD FIGHTERS
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BUT THEY ARE NOT CAPABLE TAKING NDJAMENA OR GOVERNING CHAD.

4. THE TRIPOLI MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 7 WILL BE THE MOST
IMPORTANT INDICATION OF THE FUTURE COURSE OF EVENTS. I ASKED
THE MINISTER ABOUT THE REPORT THAT QADHAFI HAD ASKED MALLOUM TO
DECLARE CHAD AN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC. THE FONMIN REPLIED THAT THIS
WAS REALLY A FROLINAT POSITION BUT IT COULD NOT BE TAKEN

SERIOUSLY IN VIEW OF THE CATHOLIC POPULATION OF CHAD.

5. NIGER HAS A BIG STAKE IN THE RECONCILIATION OF CHAD. THEY HAVE ACCURATELY PERCEIVED LIBYA AS THE KEY TO RESTORATION OF CHADIAN TRANQUILITY AND BECAUSE THEY WISH TO BELIEVE, THEY HAVE IGNORED INNER DOUBTS ABOUT THE TERMS OF SUCH RESTORATION TO PRONOUNCE: FIRST: QADHAFI IS SINCERE; SECONDLY, QADHAFI IS COMMITTED AND NOW QADHAFI IS OBLIGATED. THEY ALLOW NO ROOM FOR THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE LIBYAN LEADER MAY FIND THE STRENGTH TO RISE ABOVE ALL IN PURSUIT OF THE TRUE FAITH.JAMES

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